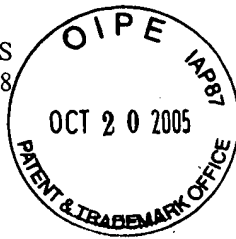


### REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 15 remain rejected as anticipated by Nobileau. The Examiner contends that the pulling up of the mandrel 27 after cementing results in tension on the string. This is despite the fact that the string has before then been landed on landing shoulder 13 and then cemented in place all before the mandrel 27 is lifted. Mandrel 27 moves with respect to the upper body 55 to create pressure on the setting sleeve piston 89. Movement of piston 89 forces the setting of the packoff 81. To the extent there is any tension on the string at the point of lifting mandrel 27, which applicant contends there isn't, the setting of the packoff 81 and subsequent mandrel manipulation to remove it, undoubtedly removes any tension on the string, even if the Examiner can show that tension ever existed in the string from pulling on a mandrel attached to it with the string fully cemented. The procedure for removing the mandrel and the entire running tool is described in Column 6 Lines 43-62. The Nobileau reference says nothing of a tensile force on the string much less of a retained tensile force on the string. To advance prosecution to a close, applicants have elected to amend claim 1 to indicate that the tensile force remains and is not simply just applied for a time. Nobileau has no facility for retaining a tensile force and applicants contend doesn't even disclose a method that applies tension to the already cemented sting. However, with the amendment to claim 1 there can be no disagreement that there is no retained tensile force in Nobileau as removal of the running tool simply releases all previously applied forces that were used to set the seal.

Allowance of the remaining claims is requested.



Respectfully submitted,

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 31 CFR 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence along with any referred to as attached or enclosed is being deposited with the US Postal Service as First Class mail, postage prepaid in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Arlington, VA 22313-1450 on this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of October 2005.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Rita Kompa